

## Amusements.

**ACADEMY—**11:15. The Old Homestead.  
**ACADEMY OF DESIGN—**8 a. m. to 6 p. m. and 7:30 to 10 p. m.—Water Color exhibition.  
**AMBERG THEATRE—**8:15. Faust.  
**ASSOCIATION HALL—**8. Social.  
**BROADWAY THEATRE—**8. The Prince and the Pauper.  
**CASINO—**8. The Brigands.  
**DALY'S THEATRE—**8. As You Like It.  
**EDEN MUSIC—**Was Tabern.  
**GRAND OPERA HOUSE—**8. Mr. Harnes of New York.  
**LYCUM THEATRE—**8:15. The Charity Ball.  
**MADISON SQUARE THEATRE—**8:30. Aunt Jack.  
**METROPOLITAN OPERA HOUSE—**2. Philharmonic Rehearsal. 8. Die Gotterdammerung.  
**NEW PARK THEATRE—**8:15. The Gondoliers.  
**NIELSEN GARDEN—**8. Bluebird, Jr.  
**PALMIST'S THEATRE—**8:15. Master and Man.  
**PROCTOR'S THEATRE—**8:15. Shenandoah.  
**STANDARD THEATRE—**8:15. The Seven Ages.  
**STAR THEATRE—**8. As You Like It.  
**UNION SQUARE THEATRE—**8:15. The County Fair.  
**17th AVENUE THEATRE—**8. As You Like It.  
**14th STREET THEATRE—**8. Shaloe on Lawn.  
**4th AVE. and 10th ST.—**4:45. 5:15.

## Index to Advertisements.

Page.	Col.	Page.	Col.
Advertisements.....	10	10	10
Amusements.....	10	10	10
Business Notices.....	10	10	10
Classified Advertisements.....	10	10	10
Deaths.....	10	10	10
Entertainments.....	10	10	10
For Sale.....	10	10	10
General Advertisements.....	10	10	10
Hotels.....	10	10	10
Immigration.....	10	10	10
Law.....	10	10	10
Medical.....	10	10	10
Military.....	10	10	10
Naval.....	10	10	10
Political.....	10	10	10
Religious.....	10	10	10
Social.....	10	10	10
Theatrical.....	10	10	10
Travel.....	10	10	10
Wanted.....	10	10	10
Wholesale.....	10	10	10
Work.....	10	10	10

## Business Notices.

**TRIBUNE TERMS TO MAIL SUBSCRIBERS.**  
 Daily, 7 days a week.....\$10.00  
 Daily, without Sunday.....\$12.00  
 Sunday Tribune.....\$1.00  
 Weekly Tribune.....\$1.00  
 Foreign, per annum.....\$10.00  
 Postage paid by Tribune, except on Daily and Sunday papers, for mail subscribers in New York City and on Long Island Sound, and for foreign countries, in advance. Cash orders and postal orders payable to order of the Tribune, New York, are accepted. Note, if sent in an unregistered letter, it will be at sender's risk.  
 Main office of the Tribune, 134 Nassau st., New York.  
 Advertisers at correspondence supply "The Tribune," New York.

**BRANCH OFFICES OF THE TRIBUNE.**  
 Advertisers for regular delivery of the daily paper, will be received at the following branch offices in New York:  
 Branch Office, 132 Broadway, 9 a. m. to 9 p. m.  
 No. 55 Broadway, between 22d and 23d sts., till 8 p. m.  
 No. 270 West 23d st., till 8 p. m.  
 No. 560 Broadway, near 37th st., 10 a. m. to 4 p. m.  
 No. 1,020 Broadway, near 43d st., 10 a. m. to 8 p. m.  
 No. 120 E. 125th st., near 4th Ave., 10 a. m. to 7:30 p. m.  
 Union Square, No. 153 4th Ave., corner 14th st., 10 a. m. to 12:30 p. m., 6 to 8 p. m.  
 175 E. 14th Ave., near 6th st., open until 7:30 p. m.  
 175 E. 14th Ave., near 6th st., open until 7:30 p. m.

## New-York Daily Tribune.

FOUNDED BY HORACE GREELEY

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 1890.

## TEN PAGES.

## THE NEWS THIS MORNING.

Foreign.—An explosion occurred in a colliery in Wales by which 120 lives were lost; over 200 miners were imprisoned. Satisfaction is expressed in Germany over the confirmation by the United States Senate of the Samoa Treaty. The Australian Federation Conference was opened in Melbourne, and much enthusiasm was manifested. The Pope's brother, Cardinal Pecci, was reported to be dying. A commercial treaty between Germany and Turkey has been signed.  
 Congress.—Both branches in session. Senate: The Oklahoma Territory bill was considered; Mr. Blair resumed his speech on his National Educational bill. House: Mr. Cannon, of Illinois, reported the new code of rules; a bill for the relief of the survivors of the Samoan hurricane disaster was passed.  
 Domestic.—The Assembly refused to concur in the Senate amendments to the World's Fair bill. The Colored Convention at Washington elected P. B. S. Pinchback president of the new organization and adjourned after issuing an address to the country. The session of the Shipping League in Washington was largely attended and resolutions endorsing the Fairquhar bill were passed. The flood receded at Portland, Ore. Mr. Carnegie's plan for a public library in Pittsburgh, including a building to cost \$1,000,000, was made public.  
 City and Suburban.—Mayor Grant appointed T. C. Crain, his private secretary, to succeed Richard Croker as City Chamberlain; Leicester Holme to succeed Mr. Crain. Conrad N. Jordan assumed a meeting of depositors of the Lenox Hill Bank that the institution was sound and would probably be open for business this morning. The alumni of Williams College had their annual dinner at the Hotel Brunswick. The Rev. Dr. Talnage had a public reception and welcome at the 13th Regiment Armory. Edmund William Corlies, president of the Bank of America, died. A pigeon-shooting contest for stakes of \$10,000 was begun at Babylon, L. I. The French cooks held their annual exhibition and ball. The Jersey City Athletic Club gave a reception to Governor Abbott. Stocks dull, with fluctuations toward appreciation, closing strong.  
 The Weather.—Forecast for to-day: Slightly colder and fair, followed by warmer, cloudy weather, with light rain or snow. Temperature yesterday: Highest, 35 degrees; lowest, 25; average, 30-35.

It will be gratifying to all of Secretary Tracy's friends to receive the positive assurance which is given by his brother-in-law, General Catlin, that the head of the Navy Department has no intention of giving up public life. The blow he has sustained was very high and overwhelming, and in addition he is suffering from the effects of the smoke which nearly caused his suffocation; but he is rallying nobly and will soon, it is hoped, be able to devote himself with the utmost diligence to the work of his Department.

One of the contested election cases was disposed of by the House of Representatives on Monday, but sixteen more remain to be acted on. Evidently the Committee on Elections will be kept busy with the large amount of work which it has on hand. One of the cases in which the evidence of fraud and wrongdoing appears to be overwhelming is that of Mudd against Compton, who now holds the seat for the 5th Maryland District. From the evidence that has been put in there is no room for doubt as to what justice and fair dealing demand as the solution of this contest.

The experience of Controller Jackson, of Brooklyn, in Twenty-fourth-st., this city, on Wednesday evening, reveals a new danger to which people expose themselves when they venture abroad at night. Robbers must be growing uncommonly bold when they attempt to stop a carriage before midnight and attack its occupant with a sandbag. The police are incredulous about the affair, and virtually say it is impossible that it could have happened. Such things clearly ought to be impossible in New-York; but it is to be feared that our police are too apt to consider that what ought to be really is.

The Democratic Senators in Montana have resorted to desperate tactics in order to break

up a quorum and block all legislation. They have fled from the capital and probably from the State. Warrants have been issued for them, and, according to a dispatch from Helena, it is hoped to capture at least some of them before they cross the State border. The Democrats' disposition seems to be the same in Montana as in Washington—if they cannot have their own way, they will, if possible, prevent anything from being done. It is some satisfaction to know that the Montana absenteees will be liable to fines amounting to \$80,000 if they remain absent till the end of the session on February 20.

## MAYOR GRANTS AMAZING FOLLY.

It is generally believed that Mayor Grant nurses a lusty ambition for another term as Mayor, and even ventures to cast an aspiring eye upon the Governorship. Now there is nothing more certain than that such appointments as that which he made yesterday to the post of City Chamberlain will be an effectual bar to any honors at Albany, and will make it extremely difficult for Tammany to give the youthful mouthpiece of Mr. Croker two years more at the City Hall. The selection of Mr. Crain for such an office was not only discreditable, but it was grossly stupid as well. Mr. Crain is an amiable and inoffensive young person, with about as much fitness for the most lucrative office in the city government as is possessed by a chipping canary. Politically Mr. Grant stabbed himself in the throat, and narrowly escaped slitting the jugular vein when he disgraced himself and his administration by making the Police Board a Tammany machine. He seems to have struck home this time, and to have succeeded in cutting a gaping chasm in his carotid artery, which will be fatal to his hopes of preferment.

It is impossible to speak of such an appointment as this with any patience, or to feel any respect for a Mayor capable of making it. Whatever may have been Mr. Croker's faults as a partisan "boss," he was at least a conscientious citizen, a man of substance, force and brains. The choice of such a nonentity as Mr. Crain for City Chamberlain reveals unsuspected abysses of fatuity and folly in the man responsible for it. So grotesque and contemptible an abuse of his powers by the Mayor may lead to one good result. It ought to give a tremendous push to the movement to abolish the office of City Chamberlain, and to put the work in charge of a subordinate in the Controller's office. Mr. Croker is on record as admitting that the office could be spared without injury to the city government. Every careful student of the municipal administration long ago came to the conclusion that it was practically superfluous. But while it was retained it was clearly the duty of the Mayor to award so fat a prize to a citizen of genuine weight and mark in the community, and not to hand it over to a mere clerk of his own, as if it were a piece of plunder of his own private pocketing. The action of the Mayor is most reprehensible, but it has a comical side, too. The notion of such an office falling to such a person as Crain would be laughable in the highest degree were it not so deplorable from every consideration of both public and private morals. The Mayor has hurt himself irretrievably. He has blundered so badly that he has made himself an object of general derision. And every one knows that is fatal in politics.

Now the state Legislature should look to this, and the office of City Chamberlain should be abolished as soon as possible.

## SILVER NOTES IN ENGLAND.

For some weeks it has been reported that the Bank of England was about to issue notes based on silver. It seemed so strange that the Government and Bank of England, to which the defeat of all international movements toward bi-metalism for years has been chiefly due, should take a step so distinctly in accord with bi-metallic theories that these reports were scarcely credited. But they have been repeated from many sources, and appear to be confirmed by information that the notes which it is proposed to issue have actually been printed, and that only the formal authorization by Government is awaited. It is stated that the amount to be issued is \$20,000,000, and the notes are to be based upon coin and not on silver bullion, but it is not yet authoritatively stated whether they are to be redeemed otherwise than in gold, as other notes are redeemed.

If the notes are to be redeemed in gold, the practical effect will be to put out a larger amount of notes against a given gold reserve. No one will expect that the notes will be presented by any holder with demand for the silver coins, excepting in peculiar states of the circulation when more small coins may be temporarily required. It is to be presumed that, like the American silver certificates, these notes will obtain ready circulation solely because of the power to get gold for them at pleasure. In this country, through the operation of the custom houses and other offices of taxation, the silver certificates can be virtually redeemed in gold at the option of any holder, for if he has not duties or taxes to pay himself, he can dispose of the certificates to others who have. Whether the proposed notes are to be made receivable for taxes in England is not stated, and presumably they are not, though it would hardly be a greater departure from the traditional English policy than the mere issue of notes with no other basis than silver coins worth as metal about 25 per cent less than their nominal value.

This would be a step backward, because it would tend away from and not toward international solution of the monetary problem. Notes based on silver bullion at its market value might speedily become acceptable in all civilized nations, and so might form a kind of international money. Their issue would supply an inducement for the purpose of silver bullion by various Governments, and thus would greatly increase the demand for silver in monetary uses. The apprehension is often expressed by opponents of Secretary Windom's plan that, if it were adopted by the United States alone, it would soon lift the price of silver bullion and afterward cause a greatly increased production of that metal. But a similar issue of silver bullion by several commercial nations would doubtless advance the price, not temporarily, but permanently to some extent, and thus would go far to solve the silver problem.

The issue of notes based on over-valued coin, on the other hand, would be of no practical service whatever, as the experience of this country has demonstrated. The silver is never wanted in exchange for certificates, and would not be taken in exchange for such notes as are contemplated in England, and the only actual redemption would be in gold. To increase the volume of paper currency depending for actual redemption upon a gold reserve confessedly too narrow would be a strange course for Great Britain to take, so that, in the absence of further statements as to the details of the plan, the accounts published must still be received with some distrust. But the natural doubts with which such reports about the British Government are received suggest the question whether continued issues of silver certificates

in this country, such certificates being virtually redeemable in gold, can be either beneficial or safe.

## NOW FOR AN AGREEMENT.

The World's Fair bill, whose demise was prematurely announced on Wednesday, has been revived, and now has at least as much life in it as it had a week ago when the Assembly rejected the conference report. In fact, its condition is practically the same now that it was then. The Senate amendments are not identical, but no new element of opposition has been introduced so far as we can see. The report of the Conference Committee appointed yesterday will be presented to-day, and there is a possibility, if not a reasonable expectation, of favorable action on the bill. There is no advantage in holding out false hopes, but it may be worth while to express once more the deliberate opinion that this final chance to secure for New-York, under absolutely non-partisan conditions, an enterprise in which the whole world is deeply interested, ought to be accepted with enthusiasm.

Owing to circumstances at Washington which, so far at least as this matter is concerned, are peculiarly fortunate, no practical harm has been done by the long delay and the conflict of cross-purposes at Albany. The attention of Congress has been engrossed by the struggle in the House of Representatives, and consideration of the World's Fair has consequently not passed beyond the point where favorable action at Albany would prove decisive. If members of the opposition who, from one motive or another, have hitherto antagonized the pending bill at the State Capitol should to-day consent to lay aside their individual preferences and prejudices and align themselves with popular sentiment, Congress would almost certainly award the prize to New-York.

This is not a time when any member of the Legislature should permit a personal dislike, or even an avowed antagonism, to influence his vote. Many public-spirited citizens were satisfied with the list of original incorporators, but has anybody been able to raise a reasonable objection to any single addition that it is now proposed to make? Are not the new men sagacious, efficient, without reproach? Is there a possibility left that under the enlarged management the Fair could be controlled in any interest save that of the whole country? It seems to us that these questions can be truthfully answered in only one way, and that a candid answer ought to mean a unanimous vote for the amended bill.

## BALLOT REFORM GAINING.

Messages by Governors Campbell of Ohio and Wilson of West Virginia give much reason to hope that in those two States ballot reform may make substantial progress this year, notwithstanding there are Democratic majorities in both Legislatures. Governor Campbell argues manfully in favor of the Massachusetts system, with the official ballot, against which political schemers like Governor Hill protest, and his answers to many objections raised are well considered and forcible. They make Mr. Campbell appear as a statesman of great stature in comparison with the piggish products of ballot-box knavery in New-York and New-Jersey.

In his argument on this subject Governor Campbell touches one point to which this journal has frequently referred, that an evil of greater magnitude than direct bribery, as respects the mere number of voters concerned, will remain uncorrected, namely, the refusal of voters to vote for their own party unless hired to go to the polls. The Governor's message suggests that the difficulty may possibly be reached by a compulsory election law with severe penalties, but that public opinion is not yet sufficiently educated to insure the enforcement of such a law, and without sustaining public opinion the evil cannot immediately be remedied. Possibly there may be a simpler way. Refusal to vote at all is not necessarily an offense. The conscientious citizen may sometimes find that he can do more good by refusing to vote for either of two unworthy candidates than by voting at all. Neither is mere neglect or forgetfulness an offense of such magnitude as to require penal legislation. The real crime against free government lies in trying to be paid for doing one's duty as a citizen. It may not be found entirely impossible, even now, to provide permanent disfranchisement as a penalty for taking a bribe or seeking to be hired, but that particular penalty the workers of either party could so effectively enforce that not many voters would consent to put themselves into the power of such workers.

Governor Wilson recites the fact that Massachusetts, Connecticut, Indiana, Missouri, Michigan, Illinois, Kentucky, Tennessee and Montana have adopted in various forms what is known as the Australian system, and that it has been found, wherever tried, far in advance of the old mode of voting. He therefore submits a bill which provides for the official ballot with elaborate provisions against ballot-box stuffing, repeating and other fraudulent devices. It might be well for him to send a copy to the Democratic Governor of New-York, in order to inform that official that Democracy in West Virginia is not exactly dependent, as Democracy in New-York confessedly is, upon the perpetration of fraud for success.

There seems to be good reason to hope that the recommendations of these two Democratic Governors will be followed by speedy action. Legislatures in both States are close, and the Republican members will scarcely be honored by their associates in other States unless they meet half-way every sincere Democratic movement toward purification of the ballot-box. It is scarcely conceivable that these two Governors would have taken the position they do without assurance of some support from members of their own party, and there ought to be no captious diffidence about details or the Republican side so long as the measures proposed embrace the vital features of the desired reform.

## IMPERIAL CATCHPENNY POLITICS.

The rescript of the German Emperor regarding the interests of the workmen, which some of our contemporaries erroneously regard as evidence of the existence of differences between the Chancellor and his young master, is only an electioneering dodge destined to catch the labor vote at the impending elections. Plaintiff was the late Reichstag, it was not sufficiently subservient to satisfy the exacting demands of the Kaiser. It demurred when his sanction was required for the construction of an Imperial palace at Frankfurt, and it rejected the Anti-Socialist law which both His Majesty and Prince Bismarck had declared indispensable for the administration of the Government.

In the new Reichstag the Emperor is determined at all costs to possess a majority sufficient to carry through all the Government measures, both of a military and civil nature. He has therefore been greatly dismayed to learn of the nomination of a number of Socialist candidates by the workmen in several of the mining and industrial districts. And he has realized that unless the labor vote is tempted away from the Socialist platform the

opposition against the Government in the new Reichstag will be even greater than in the last. It is with this in view that he has issued his extraordinary rescript, which dangles before the eyes of the workmen a socialism almost as advanced as and far more inviting than that of the professional Socialists themselves.

He has, moreover, summoned the Imperial Parliament to meet on February 20, fully three weeks earlier than the date originally fixed. The purpose of this move is manifestly to enable him to rush the elections through while the glamour still adheres to the Imperial rescript and before the workmen have time to give the document either sober consideration or close scrutiny. Its catchpenny character is best illustrated by the neglect of any of the Imperial Ministers of State to countersign it with their names, a neglect which renders it unconstitutional, and consequently of a nature that the Government cannot regard as binding.

## POPULATION.

The estimates of population which from time to time appear in advance of the census are usually based upon the computations of Mr. E. B. Elliot, of the Treasury Department, who reckoned ten years ago what the population would be in each remaining year of the century if the increase should continue at a previous mathematical rate, without regard to the gain by immigration. It was evident that this method was defective. Statisticians pointed out ten years ago that, while the rate of increase by excess of births over deaths might be computed by Mr. Elliot's or some other mathematical law, the increase by immigration would conform to no such rule, but must be separately reckoned.

Mr. Elliot estimated the population in 1890 at 64,476,000, and the estimate recently published by "The Sun" is but little larger. The ground for distrusting these and all similar estimates is that the immigration during the last nine years has been much greater than in any previous decade, so that the population must have grown beyond the estimates, unless the rate of increase by excess of births over deaths has strangely diminished. For instance, from 1870 to 1880 the actual increase by excess of births over deaths was 2 per cent yearly, and the recorded immigration was 2,812,191. Had the population continued to increase at the same rate to 1890, with an increase in immigration proportioned to that natural increase by excess of births over deaths—a supposition obviously illogical—the aggregate in 1890 would have been about the number given by Mr. Elliot.

But the actual immigration in only nine years, as officially reported, has been 4,791,305, and this excludes the whole movement across the Canadian border since 1882. Assuming that the officially reported immigration will be 400,000 in the fiscal year ending next June, against 444,427 last year—the decrease for five months of the fiscal year having been only 11,477—the total for ten years will have been 5,191,305. Addition for the immigration through Canada would make the number considerably larger. Thus this dilemma arises: either the population must be larger than Mr. Elliot estimated by the difference in immigration, or else the increase by excess of births over deaths must be lower for this decade than the last by about 2,000,000. There is no evidence that there has been any decrease in that excess. All statistics obtainable of death-rate in cities and towns tend to indicate a decrease rather than an increase in the mortality. It therefore seems wholly unphilosophical to assume that the unexpectedly large immigration has caused no unexpected increase in population.

The official estimates, although made upon this obviously erroneous method, have been employed in the various official publications, and are therefore used more commonly than any other. A method more scientifically correct is to reckon upon the increase of births and deaths and the increase by immigration separately. As to the former, it is only possible as yet to assume a continuance of the rate of the previous decade. As to immigration, it is safe to include only the number officially reported, without any allowance for unreported immigration through Canada. Reckoning on this basis, the total population January 1 would be over 66,000,000, and the population next July should be over 66,700,000—about 2,000,000 more than "The Sun" estimates, and 2,200,000 more than Mr. Elliot estimated. The census next July will determine which mode has proved the more reliable in practice, and if the increase by excess of births over deaths has been less than in the previous decade, will show how much less.

## NO MORE HATS TO BE DOFFED.

It is a curious fact that during the recent epidemic of influenza, the Turks alone of all the nations in Europe escaped any visitation thereof, an immunity which is ascribed by several prominent physicians to the fact that they never under any circumstances remove their fez or turban. Moreover, the medical faculty of Vienna, after a careful investigation into the causes of the malady, have issued an official declaration to the effect that the frequent doffing of hats in the street, in corroboration of this theory it is pointed out that the great majority of the victims belonged to the male sex, and that there were relatively few cases among the soldiers, who, it is well known, do not remove their headgear when saluting.

In large cities as well as in small towns there is generally a fixed hour when society takes its daily walk abroad, and a recognized locality or promenade where it is wont to congregate. The majority of those present are acquainted with one another, and consequently the men find themselves under the necessity of raising their hat so often as to leave them bareheaded almost the whole time, and exposed to neutral and influenza in an aggravated form.

A movement has therefore been started in Europe for the purpose of effecting a change in the present mode of salutation. Hats are no longer to be doffed; but a kind of semi-military, semi-oriental wave of the hand toward the brim of the headgear is to be substituted. This new gospel, which originated at Vienna, has taken strong root both in Paris and in London, and indeed has been accepted with enthusiasm by many cities great and small in the Old World. Belgium, Switzerland and Holland alone remain indifferent to the popular agitation, as the people of those countries rarely remove their hats under any circumstances. Indeed, a Dutchman's ordinary form of courteous greeting is to thrust his hands into his pockets. In France, however, where the art of hat-lifting attains its highest perfection, and where the process is invariably accompanied by a slight prostration of the chin—known as the "coup de menton"—the new creed is causing a revolution. For it involves a change of all the gradations by which the courtly Gaul is wont to discriminate between his bow to a duchess and his bow to a laundress—between the salute to a tailor to whom he owes a heavy bill, and the salute to the same tailor after the amount in question has been squared. Notwithstanding the labor involved in altering all this, the movement is welcomed by everybody except by the hatmakers, who foresee a decrease of more than 50 per cent in their annual sales.

On the whole, we may feel relieved that the men who originated the movement against the doffing of hats should have contented themselves with substituting the military salute, instead of attempting to inaugurate some exotic and outlandish method of performing "salam." We must be grateful to them for not having brought into fashion the form of salutation which prevails in the Philippine Islands, where, when the natives happen to meet, they reciprocally seize each other's feet and rub their faces against them with great force. The inhabitants of Siam are accustomed to kiss one another's shoulders. A Chinaman who comes across a friend grasps his own right hand with his left and shakes it heartily. A Laplander rubs noses with persons who may be introduced to him, while in Loango a polite man is expected when his eyes light upon an acquaintance to wave his hands high in the air, and then to make three bounds forward and three jumps backward. It is appalling to think of what might have happened if this Loangoan method had been adopted by the jeunesse doree of Europe. The aspect of our own gilded youth gyrating in the air in this peculiar fashion when meeting a friend during the course of their daily lounge up the Avenue would be bewildering to contemplate.

Lord Hopetoun, the new Governor of the British colony of Victoria, would have done well to spend a few months in this country, for the purpose of becoming inured to handshaking, before he assumed the duties of his office. Four thousand sturdy and brawny Australian gentlemen attended the first reception which he gave after his arrival at Melbourne, and so vigorously did they grasp the hand of Queen Victoria's representative as they filed past him that the poor little man fainted away before the function was half over, and had to be carried out of the hall. A somewhat similar incident occurred a few years ago at the Castle of Dublin. The Viceroy of Ireland is bound by court etiquette to imprint a kiss on the cheek of every debutante presented to him at an official Drawing-Room, and on the occasion in question His Excellency was forced to retire in the midst of the ceremony owing to the fact of his being nearly choked with powder.

It is to be regretted that when the City Chamberlain's department is investigated by a committee from Albany, Mr. Richard Croker will not be in a position to give the committee the valuable information which he undoubtedly possesses. One feature of The Tribune Almanac which is particularly excellent is its resume of the more important laws of Congress passed during the sessions immediately previous to its appearance. It is important that all citizens should know the main provisions of at least the significant pieces of National legislation. To get at these by searching through public libraries is a laborious work which few would feel a disposition to undertake. In the Almanac is to be found just what everybody requires to keep himself well posted in this respect. Among the laws of the last session noticed in the Almanac are those creating the Department of Agriculture; regulating the salmon fisheries of Alaska; authorizing the construction of bridges and public buildings; relating to the faking of the census; concerning dealers in counterfeit money and their use of the mails; concerning the Indians, interstate commerce, the new navy, pensions, post-offices; public lands, railroad rights of way and the new States. These are all important laws and should be understood by the public. Many people take The Tribune Almanac especially because of this law report.

Praise is due to the New-England railroad company which has issued an order abolishing signs from its fences. Multitudes of passengers would lift up their hands in thankfulness should other companies determine to go and do likewise.

A bit of news coming from London will have a keen interest for everybody, and the publishing fraternity first of all. The hot contest for the privilege of bringing out Henry M. Stanley's new work has ended in the success of the Messrs. Scribner. They will publish the narrative in two volumes simultaneously with its appearance in England, France and Germany. They have, moreover, secured from Mr. Stanley an article which will occupy many pages in an early number of "Scribner's Magazine." There have been many competitors for the prize now rapidly growing under Stanley's pen in Cairo; and it may be surmised that the price paid by the winners was not a small one.

In view of the number of jewellers' show-windows which have been smashed of late in New-York by more or less successful robbers, it would be well if the dealers were to take a leaf out of the book of the Paris jewellers. The latter have posted duplicates made of all their best stock, and in those which they exhibit in their store-fronts, the original stones, both mounted and unmounted, being kept safely locked up in their strongboxes.

If Canada were knocking for admission and the voters of the United States were to be polled whether or not they would accept her, it is possible the result of the ballot would amaze the noisy Tories who are dreaming such silly dreams of American aggression. Every day increases the disabilities and hardships to which the five million Jews in Russia are subjected by the Czar's Government. Since the beginning of the present year all Hebrew lawyers throughout the Empire have been disbarred and disqualified from practising as counsel. Moreover, it has just been decided by the Supreme Court of Appeal at St. Petersburg that Jews are debarred from transferring their property by deed to their wives or children. And yet Russia is supposed to be a Christian country.

A great question is agitating the breasts of Bostonians—no less a question, namely, than that of the invasion of the sacred, or at least semi-sacred, precincts of Beacon-st., by an electric railroad. One man who is described as a "prominent citizen" advocates the scheme, and says: "The more you reflect upon this proposition the more feasible it will appear. There would be at first a few kickers on Beacon-st., but in a very short time the residents would find the cars a great convenience." We fancy it is well that this "prominent citizen" has concealed his name from the Boston public. Otherwise he would be apt to find life becoming decidedly uncomfortable for him. The "kickers" may be more numerous than he supposes when the untarnished fame of Beacon-st. is in the balance.

Philadelphia has achieved what Milton would have styled a "bad eminence" in many particulars. At least "The Inquirer" of that city asserts as much. In cold blood—as cold as this sort of a winter affords—it declares that Philadelphia has the worst gas in the world, the worst pavements in the world, the worst sewers in the world, the worst accommodations for street transit in the world, and the worst Common Council in the world. This is a pretty bad record, but then it is not to be forgotten that Philadelphia beats the universe for calm and staid.

## PERSONAL.

There is some expectation that Mr. A. A. Stagg will pitch for the Yale baseball club again this year. Major Sepp Pinto, the Portuguese filibuster, is near-sighted.

Among the full details furnished by "Trubner's Record" of the recent International Congress of Orientalists at Stockholm and Christiania, a place is appropriately reserved for a sketch of the literary and artistic work of King Oscar II. Born at the Castle of Stockholm in 1829 and educated under the care of Carlsson, the historian, the young Prince carried with him to the University of Upsala a taste for historical and literary studies. During the reign of his late father he was an active patron of literature and art, and he took a warm interest in the famous voyage of exploration of the Vega. Five editions of his volume of poems entitled "Things Old and New" have made their appearance. He translated into Swedish Herder's "Old and Goethe's "Torquato Tasso," and many of his poetical and historical productions have been rendered into German, French and English. A col-

lective edition of his works, the list of which occupies a recently published bibliography nineteen closely printed pages, is now in progress. At the Oriental Congress of Christiania he is reported to have displayed his distinguished visitors by the ease, grace and terseness with which he handled not only the current languages of Europe, but also the Latin, a language with which crowned heads in these days supposed not to trouble themselves much after the period of school Latin and university studies.

Dr. Amelia B. Edwards recently lectured at Mount Holyoke College, Mass., on "Recent Egypt," and was publicly received by the class of 1891, of which she was made an honorary member.

Phillips Brooks will deliver six noon lectures in Trinity Church, New-York, beginning on February 24. The Rev. Dr. J. M. Buckley will deliver an address at a Methodist mass meeting at Detroit, Mich., to-night.

The Empress Augusta, at the age of thirty-seven, once figured in the uniform of a lieutenant of artillery in the streets of Berlin. When her husband was about to go for England, during the riot in 1848, she brought some very valuable documents from the Prince of Prussia, which she carried off in a bag, and clothed in the manner described above. This was on the 19th of March, and so excellent was her disguise that no one recognized her.

## THE TALK OF THE DAY.

The Honorable Mr. Bynum, of Indiana, seems to have achieved a distinction that will carry his name down through the aisles of Fame's temple as the gentleman from the burnt-grass district of Indiana.

"Look here, you've got to strike!" said an individual to a workman.

"Oh, you are, are you?" Well, now let me see you walk,"—Munsey's Weekly.

The St. Louis Republic reports the following remarkable coincidence concerning the name of E. Reynolds: During April, 1859, E. Reynolds, of Utica, N. Y., was visited by E. E. Reynolds, of New-Haven, Conn. Each acknowledged that his name was Elmer Ellsworth and that he was named for Ellsworth of zouave fame. The publication of the facts has just brought out a letter from the Rev. E. E. Reynolds, of Ludlow, Vt., named the same and born the same week as the others.

Stranger in New-York—Will you please tell me what street this is?

Old New-York—Look at the lamp-post—oh! I forgot; let's step into this store and ask—(Puck).

Because Inspector Byrnes gets a holiday it doesn't necessarily follow that the crooks of the city will be left free to work their own criminal will without molestation. A number of efficient under-studies will see that the cat-and-mice game is not allowed to flourish.

"It's a case of coffee and pistols for two, between you and me, sir," said a fire-eating citizen.

"Well, if you mean the kind of coffee we get at our hotel, I don't think I care to say one word of bettering about the pistols,"—(Washington Post).

No less than twenty-eight private seafarers are fitting out at Victoria for a raid in the Behring Sea this summer.

The philosophy of this world is kept busy finding out how many things we do not need from among those we cannot get.—(New-Orleans Picayune).

For the first time, perhaps, in the history of the city, poverty and want stalk abroad in the bowels of San Francisco, to quote the language of Pacific Coast exiles, the terrible floods and snow storms of the past few weeks having caused unprecedented destitution and suffering. The "glorious climate of California" is growing careless